

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05

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R 220835Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4962

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR ID

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - AVIATION BILATERAL

REF: A. STATE 227300

B. JAKARTA 11802

C. JAKARTA 10206

1. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENTS READINESS SEND US TEAM
HERE FOR INFORARMAL TALKS ON BILATERAL. ON CAREFUL
REFLECTION, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THAT UNDER PREENT CONDITIONS
PROPOSED VISIT COULD INVITE PROBLEMS WITH BILATERAL
RATHER THAN RESOLVE THEM. OUR REASONS AS FOLLOWS:

A. SALIM AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT HAVE NOT
REACTED TO AMBASSADOR'S REPLY OF SEPT 24 TO SALIM
LETTER (PARA 4 REF B). PANMA LOCAL REP HAS TOLD US
HE DOES NOT INTEND TO PRESS APPLICATION FOR NEW
FREIGHT SERVICE. PROBLEMS CURENTLY APPEAR BURIED
IN THIS HEAVILY OVERBURDENED GOI DEPARTMENT.

B. GARUDA, WHICH INSTIGATED SALIM'S LETTER AND IS
BEHIND PUSH TO CURTAIL PANAM RIGHTS, LOST POLITICAL
GROUND LATELY, AS EVIDENCED BY AWARD OF BALI
CHARTERS TO MANDALA AND MERPATI (SEPT-01).

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C. ANY DISCUSSIONS ON BILATERAL ARE LIKELY TO PRODUCE EITHER NO RESULT OR ONE ADVERSE TO U.S. INTERESTS. GOI MOTIVES IN WISHING TO RESTRICT PANAM ARE EMOTIONAL AND POLITICAL; THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY RATIONAL, LEGAL ARGUMENTS BASED ON BILATERAL. WITH POSSIBLE (AND DUBIOUS) EXCEPTION OF GARUDA'S CURRENT GUAM CHARTER APPLICATION, U.S. HAS VIRTUALLY NO LEVERAGE. OUR INITIATING TALKS, EVEN INFORMAL AND EXPLORATORY ONES, WOULD REFOCUS GOI ATTENTION ON ISSUES, DIGNIFY AND RESTORE THEM TO LIFE. UNLESS PANAM DECIDES TO PRESS FOR FREIGHT SERVICE, BELIEVE U.S. INTERESTS BEST SERVED BY TAKING NO INITIATIVES AT THIS STAGE.

2. OTHER THAN PANAM PRESSURE FOR FREIGHT SERVICE, ONLY OTHER CURRENT QUESTION LIKELY TO TRIGGER ISSUE OF BILATERAL WITHIN GOI IS GARUDA APPLICATION FOR GUAM CHARTER (REF C). RECENT TELEPHONE INQUIRY FROM A SALIM ASSISTANT INTO STATUS OF CHARTER APPLICATION POINTEDLY LINKED IT TO PANAM SERVICES. WHILE STRESSING THE TWO QUESTIONS UNRELATED, EMBASSY DOING ITS BEST TO BE COOPERATIVE AND HELPFUL ON CHARTER OS AS TO MINIMIZE FRUSTRATIONS WHICH MIGHT PROVOKE GOI INTO RAISING BILATERAL. SALIM'S OFFICE APPEARS MOLLIFIED FOR PRESENT BY OUR EXPLANATION OF HOLD UP IN FACILITIES LICENSE AND OUR OFFER TO HELP GARUDA REVISE ITS APPLICATION (FIRST FORM INCORRECTLY FILLED OUT; REVISED ONE APPARENTLY NOT YET SUBMITTED). WE ARE HOPEFUL GUAM CHARTER QUESTION CAN BE SETTLED QUIETLY WITHOUT RUFFLING GOI FEATHERS, BACKFIRING ON PANAM AND OPENING UP ISSUE OF BILATERAL.

3. IN SHORT, WE BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD CHANCE DOG WILL SLEEP IF WE LET IT LIE, AND OUR BEST COURSE IS TO DO SO. WE WOULD THEREFORE RECOMMEND AGAINST PROPOSED VISIT AT THIS QUIESCENT TIME.
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